

LEVEL OF CARE RATE PROTOCOL

Level of Care Domains

Physical

To meet the child's activity/individual daily living needs. (ADLs/IADLs)

Behavioral/Emotional

To promote resilience and emotional well-being and to encourage child/youth to engage in pro-social behavior and activities that can help to develop healthy relationships.

Educational

To promote student achievement, foster educational excellence and equal access to services, and when required, responds to suspensions and/or expulsions.

Health

To promote the child's health by arranging and facilitating health care and ensuring access to services that address special health care needs.

Permanency/Family Services

To promote and facilitate visitation, communication, and the identification, development, and maintenance of lifelong, supportive connections with members of their biological/non-biological families, natural support systems and community of origin which promotes a sense of belonging, identity, and connection to culture.

OVERVIEW:

The Level of Care (LOC) Rate Protocol is a strength-based rate methodology designed to identify the individual care and supervision needs of a child or youth which is translated to an appropriate LOC rate to support their placement. Care and supervision needs will be identified based on five (5) core domains and scored based on a weighted point system. The Core Domains in the protocol tool are: Physical, Behavioral/Emotional, Educational, Health and Permanency/Family Services. The LOC Protocol is comprised of the Domains Matrix and Scoring Sheet. For additional details regarding the LOC rate protocol please read the reference information listed below.

WHO WILL USE IT:

The preference is for use by the case carrying Social Worker or Probation Officer

WHEN TO USE IT:

Upon initial foster care placement into a home-based setting;
Upon a change in placements;
When a resource parent or other individuals indicate a child's needs have changed;
When a child is receiving Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) or Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) and is ending those services.

CHILD AND FAMILY TEAM AND OTHER ASSESSMENT TOOLS:

The Child and Family Team (CFT) and/or other assessment tools, if available, provides an opportunity to gather information from a variety of perspectives and sources. The Protocol should not be completed in the meeting. The CFT focus needs to remain on the developing a comprehensive plan that meets the child and family's overall needs. Information from various other assessment tools that are in use by a county can inform the completion of the tool, including any information that is gathered from the resource family.

USEFUL LINKS:

[ACL 17-11 \(1/31/2017\)](#): Phase II implementation of the HBFC and STRTP Rates Structure and Conversion Process to the New Rate Structure.

[LOC Webinar \(3/14/2017\)](#): CCR Overview of the Level of Care Protocol.

[ACL 16-84 \(10/7/2016\)](#): Requirements and Guidelines for Creating and Providing a Child and Family Team.

[ACL 18-06E \(2/15/2018\)](#): Implementation Date Change for the HBFC – LOC Rate Determination Protocol and Instructions

For additional information or questions, please contact:

CCR@dss.ca.gov.